

**VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BUDGET MEETING #2
Minutes of April 10, 2013**

- I. ROLL CALL.** Chair Kevin T. Beal, Village Trustees Colin T. Bright (7:00 p.m.), Dennis Donahue, Stephen Fitzhugh, and K. David Maxwell (absent). Also present were Village Manager Jay Marcotte, Laurie Baroffio (Finance Director), Patrick DeMasi (Utility Superintendent), and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

Chair Beal called the budget meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.**

III. BUDGET WORK SESSION

Electric Department: The meeting began with a general discussion of the proposed Electric Department budget. After some discussion, the consensus was to reduce the "Pole Attachment" line item to \$3230. In addition, the "Legal" line item was increased to \$40,000 as recommended by David Mullett (VPPSA).

Electric Department CIP: The proposed budget was deliberated, including a discussion of the Smart Grid grant.

Sewer Department CIP: Regarding last night's discussion of needed repairs to the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) roof, Manager Marcotte stated that it is his recommendation that the funding for this will remain as originally proposed. The Village will borrow funds during FY 2012/2013 with the first debt payment in FY 2013/2014.

Village General: Manager Marcotte stated that he had consulted with Attorney Paul Giuliani, who confirmed that any remaining project deficit would transfer with merger. The Village Trustees do not have to retire the obligation prior to merger. Mr. Giuliani also confirmed that the Village Trustees may transfer additional funds (greater than one-fifth) to the shortfall in the FY 2013/2014 budget if they choose to do so. He recommended that the transfer be limited to the known June 30, 2012 surplus, not a projected June 30, 2013 surplus. There was general agreement from the Board members to show a good faith effort and to increase the transfer from \$18,490 to \$36,040 to the Village Common Project shortfall in the Village Highway budget.

Motion by Trustee Fitzhugh, seconded by Trustee Donahue, to approve the proposed FY 2013/2014 Village Budgets (Village General, Water, Sewer, and Electric) as amended. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Trustee Fitzhugh left at this time (6:40 p.m.).

A general discussion then followed regarding Town/Village Merger and how this would affect the Village budget, including the impact on PILOT funds.

Trustee Bright arrived at this time (7:00 p.m.)

The Village Trustees then discussed the role of the two (2) boards of utility commissioners (Water/Wastewater and Electric) in the consolidated community and some issues that need to be clarified. For example, would the commissioners be paid a stipend? If so, would the Selectmen serving on the commissions receive compensation in addition to what they receive for serving on the Select Board? Also, would the utility commissioners be elected at the next Town Meeting (03/04/14) or would the election have to wait until after the effective date of merger (07/01/14)? Also, how would a voting checklist for rate payers alone be created? Trustee Bright believes that according to the voter-approved Merger Plan, these commissions would have complete authority over the utility departments, not the Select Board. Manager Marcotte will confirm this with Mr. Giuliani.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Non-agenda items. There was none.

V. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Trustee Bright, seconded by Trustee Donahue, to adjourn. **Motion passed 3-0-0.**

The budget meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Baroffio

Laurie Baroffio, Acting Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting